

State and federal courts must be accessible to people with disabilities. A person with a disability must be able to physically access a courtroom. This may mean moving a court hearing to an accessible room. A court must also provide a person with a disability with any reasonable modifications, auxiliary aids, or services he or she may need to participate in court proceedings.

- **SOME THINGS YOU CAN ASK FOR**

- Ramps;
- Wider doors;
- Door knobs that have long handles instead of round handles;
- A quiet place to wait if you have anxiety;
- A sign language interpreter or FM system if you are deaf or hard of hearing;
- Materials in large print; and/or
- A person (not your lawyer) that may assist with communication between you and the judge.

- **WHO DO YOU ASK?**

- First, contact the **local Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator** for your county and ask for his or her help. Find your county's ADA Coordinator online at <http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/administration/human-resources/ada-policy/ada-contacts>.
- If you cannot contact the local ADA Coordinator or need more help, you can contact the **State ADA Coordinator** at phone: (615) 741-2687 or 800-448-7970, mail: 511 Union Street, Suite 600, Nashville, TN 37219, or email: adacoordinator@tncourts.gov.
- You may also contact your **County Clerk**. Find your county clerk at <https://www.tncourts.gov/courts/court-clerks/clerks-list>.

- **GIVE NOTICE**

Tell the local ADA Coordinator ahead of time if you need help or need an auxiliary aid. Try to give 5 business days' notice.

- **THINK ABOUT GIVING PROOF OF YOUR DISABILITY**

You do not have to give proof of your disability when you first ask for help. You may have to give proof later if the ADA Coordinator asks you to. You may get help faster if you do go ahead and provide proof when you ask for help. Proof could be a doctor's note that you have a disability and you need a specific reasonable modification because of your disability. Proof could also be a copy of your accessible parking placard.

If you have problems getting the help you need to go to court, please contact DRT's Intake Team at 1-800-342-1660 or GetHelp@DisabilityRightsTN.org.

This document is provided for general reference purposes only. None of the information in this document is legal advice. To obtain legal advice regarding these issues, you should consult an attorney.